

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for selecting an access network in a mobile station capable of receiving a service from a multi-wireless communication network, the
5 apparatus comprising:

a physical layer for communicating with the multi-wireless communication network;

an access network selector for storing information on an available network in the multi-wireless communication network and selecting a network
10 during communication and handoff; and

a higher layer for providing the information stored in the access network selector to a user, and delivering selection information of a particular network in the multi-wireless communication network to the access network selector according to a method set by the user.

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2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a display unit for displaying the information to be provided from the higher layer to the user.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a memory for
20 storing a selection criterion of the multi-wireless communication network and a handoff method for each available service.

4. A method for selecting an access network in a mobile station capable of receiving a service from a multi-wireless communication network, the
25 method comprising the steps of:

during an initial drive, detecting available access nodes, mapping the detected available access nodes, and storing the mapping results in a mapping table; and

when communication is requested, providing a user with information on
30 an available network from information stored in the mapping table, and

communicating with a particular network selected by the user.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
detecting an available handoff target network from the mapping table, if
5 a vertical handoff is necessary; and
if a handoff method is set to an automatic mode, selecting a handoff
target network from the detected available handoff target networks automatically.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
10 detecting an available handoff target network from the mapping table, if
a vertical handoff is necessary; and
if a handoff method is set to a manual mode, providing the user with
information on the detected available handoff target networks and performing
handoff to a network selected by the user.

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7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of
performing, if there is one available handoff target network, handoff to the
network.

20 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of
performing, if there is one available handoff target network, handoff to the
network.

9. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of
25 determining a predetermined particular network as a basic network when the
communication is terminated.